

# MARKET STREET

*"And this is the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you..." (1 John 1:5)*



# MESSENGER

**Market Street  
church of Christ**  
514 West Market Street  
P.O. Box 388  
Athens, Alabama 35612  
Phone (256) 232-1525

Volume VI

May 25, 2014

No. 21

## *The "Perfect" Prospect*

**Tol Burk**

### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

Bible Classes ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 4:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday

Bible Classes ..... 7:00 p.m.

#### Elders

Jerry McGlocklin..... (256) 232-7620  
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737  
Bonnie Sutton..... (256) 232-2081

#### Deacons

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 233-5147  
Tommy Coblenz ..... (256) 232-3312  
Joel Hamm..... (256) 278-1977  
Larry Mitchell ..... (256) 230-0185  
Todd Williams..... (205) 541-8304  
Russ Wulfekuhl ..... (256) 683-9396

#### Evangelists

David A. Cox ..... (256) 233-8910  
Cell: (256) 614-3757  
Jordan Lovell..... (256) 777-8998

**Visit Us On The Web**  
[MarketStreet-church.com](http://MarketStreet-church.com)

### MARKET STREET MESSENGER

*is published in the interest of New Testament  
Christianity and to enhance the work of the  
Market Street church.*

*David A. Cox, Editor*

As we meet new people we immediately size them up: what or who do they look like, are they outgoing or timid, friendly or belligerent, etc. As Christians we also need to be attentive to what kind of prospect they might be to hear the Gospel, being careful not to decide (in our mind) whether they will or will not accept it. But what are we looking for in a prospect - the "perfect" prospect?

Over and over Jesus taught the common people; He even said that the Gospel was revealed not to the wise, but unto babes (Matthew 11:25). Paul wrote that not many wise, not many noble, not many powerful, according to this world are called by the Gospel (1 Corinthians 1:26). Yet both Matthew and Zacchaeus were rich and accepted the Gospel. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea both seem to be influential, yet they recognized Jesus as the Christ. So, the fact that a person is rich or powerful doesn't mean they may not be a good prospect. Many "poor people" seem unable to look beyond today and so are **not** good prospects. A person's financial status is not a good indicator of whether or not they are a good prospect.

Surely a religious person will be a better prospect than a no-religious one. Yet in Jesus' day the religious were the ones who rejected Him, while those who were at least seemingly less religious heard Him gladly. Too many religious people see themselves as already saved and "have need of nothing" (like the church at Laodicea), while worldly people are keenly aware of what they lack.

One man told me, "I've lived life my way for 32 years and look where I am, maybe it's time I tried another way." He had been married and divorced twice, was living in a tiny apartment filled with stuff he had borrowed from us – all he owned were a few shorts, t-shirts, and a pair of flip flops (this was in the Caribbean). He had a good paying job, but partied it all away every weekend – he knew what he needed. It's interesting that two of the places where Paul spent more time than others were Corinth and Ephesus, both worldly cities, filled with worldly people, yet the Lord told him, "I have many people in this city" (Acts 18:10). So how

a person is living right now may or may not indicate a good prospect - I know several "bikers" who now preach.

The "perfect" prospect will be one that immediately understands and verbalizes his/her agreement with the Gospel when you're teaching, right? In a word, "no". Too many times I've left a first study "knowing" this person would be baptized inside of three months only to see them do nothing. In fact, that reaction is almost like a stop sign for me now. If they can in fact be that easily persuaded, frequently they do not continue, like the seed sown in the rocky soil. No, first reaction is not always a good indicator.

Who then, is the perfect prospect? The parable of the sower (or the soils) gives us the answer. What we are seeking are those good and honest hearts, who when they hear the Gospel, believe it and then obey it and continue growing in it. It may take awhile to produce fruit, you may have to deal with some denominational "weeds" before they will obey, but a heart honestly seeking truth is the mark of a good prospect. So how do you identify the honest heart? There is no easy answer; it only becomes apparent as you teach them. One of the best indicators that you have an honest heart is when they either buy a new Bible, or ask you what version of Bible they should buy - they are serious enough to invest some money in their search for truth.

There is no short cut or "formula" for knowing whom the best prospects are - faith comes by hearing, and hearing from the Word of God (Romans 10:17). That takes time, which is why it's so important to teach as many as you can - don't worry God's Word will always have an effect. I studied with four or five from a Pentecostal church and from that one study they learned a woman couldn't preach over men, so they no longer allowed a woman to be their preacher. Are they Christians today? Not that I know of, but the Word did produce one change in their service to God. Who knows what the future will bring?

Solomon's wisdom, as expressed in Ecclesiastes 11:6, is a good way for us to close as well, "In the morning sow your seed, And in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, Either this or that, Or whether both alike will be good."

-via *Biblical Insights*; Vol. 11 No. 2, February 2011.

**Remember Our Service This Afternoon at 4:00.**

## ***"We Have Spent Enough"***

**Mike Noble**

In the midst of his first epistle, Peter exhorted Christians to be of the "mind" that no longer seeks to satisfy "the lusts of men" but that desires to fulfill the "will of God." He then went on to say, "For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—" (1 Peter 4:2-3).

Of a truth, we all have "spent enough of our past lifetime" in doing so. Why would any Christian long to go back to such a life?

We have all "spent enough of our past lifetime" in serving the god of this world (Satan) rather than serving Jehovah God. In our dark past we served the devil, being slaves of sin (Romans 6:17). But God be thanked that "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love" (Colossians 1:13). How could we think of serving again the being that wants to destroy us? (1 Peter 5:8).

We have all "spent enough of our past lifetime" in adding our wicked influence to an already wicked world. By our past life we told the world, "I'm with you." Along with our comrades in sin we did our part in making the world unsavory to God. What a despicable life. But God be thanked that He, "even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ..." (Ephesians 1:5). Leaving that past life we are now to be the "salt of the earth," that which makes the world palatable to God (Matthew 5:13). How could we think of once again being "conformed to this world"? (Romans 12:2).

We have all "spent enough of our past lifetime" being a bad example to our families and friends. But now as children of God we are afforded the opportunity to influence for good these who are the closest to us! By our example we can bring up our children "in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). By our example we can affect our marriage partner for the spiritual good (1 Peter 3:1-7). But alas, far too many baptized "believers" have turned to a life of unfaithfulness, a life that is saying the wrong things to those nearest and dearest to them. Some former Christians need to wake up and heed Peter's words: **We Have**

**Spent Enough of Our Past Lifetime** in being such an example! Why would any right-thinking person want to go back to a life that leads “loved ones” toward hell? “Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offenses come!” (Matthew 18:7).

One minute in Satan’s service, in adding our wicked influence, in being a bad example, **Is Too Long!** Do recognize that all one day “will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead” (1 Peter 4:5).

-via *The Cornerstone*; Richmond, Virginia.

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## ***Set Your Mind***

**Hardeman Nichols**

Every forward step in the progress of a saint in Christian living can be measured by resolutions. One is a saint because he has set his life apart to belong to the Lord. The word saint means, “set apart for God, to be, as it were, exclusively his” (Thayer). This dedication of a life is the result of man’s resolution to obedient faith and God’s acceptance of unmerited favor.

We are not saints by sinless perfection in living. The Hebrew Christians were called saints (“holy brethren”) in Hebrews 3:1; but later in the epistle, they were exhorted, “Let us go on unto perfection” Hebrews 6:1. Although they had not reached perfection, they were pressing on toward it. That was their goal.

So must we likewise resolve and these good purposes will set us in the right direction. Resolve this day that you will serve your God aright. Purpose in your heart that you will do good to your fellowman. Fix your attention upon personal improvement. Keep Christ and His example as your constant pattern.

“If then ye were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God. Set your mind on things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth. For ye dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.” Colossians 3:1-3.

-via *North Birmingham Bulletin*; Birmingham, Alabama.

# **Beacon of Truth**

## **Radio Program**

**Every Sunday Morning**

on WVNN

770AM – 92.5 FM

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

**Market Street church of Christ**  
514 West Market Street  
Athens, Alabama

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# ***News & Notes...***

### **THE SICK:**

Joe Hinkle	Marjorie Dunnivant
Gwen Bullock	Robert & Mot Beasley
Matt Poff	Dorothy Casteel
Charlotte Keenum	Elizabeth Howard
Joey Hinkle	Charles Burns
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Eli Williams	Elizabeth Kate Miller
Carol Locke	Ava Brooke Campbell
Abby Gilbert	David Holt
Jerry Taylor	Gene Carpenter

### ***In The Hospital:***

*Reba Adams*; Athens-Limestone Hospital; rm. 302  
*Crutcher Harbin*; Athens-Limestone Hospital; rm. 323  
*Cecil Cox*; ECM Hospital - Florence; rm. 558  
*Dianna Ritter*; Huntsville Hospital; ICU  
*Baylor Ritter*; Huntsville Women’s & Children’s; NICU

### ***Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:***

Nelva Reed, rm. 75	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Dorothy Draper, rm. 97	Matty Murray, rm. 2
Mable Crafts, rm. 100	Gayle Mills, rm. 15
Robert Johnson, rm. 18	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Judith Groce, rm. 63	

### ***Limestone Health Facility:***

Albert Norton, rm. 36	Jack Cannon, rm. 13
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Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E Ruth Lawson, rm. 94

**Limestone Lodge:**

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

**Limestone Manor:**

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86

**Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:**

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

**Floyd E. "Tut" Fann Veterans Home - Huntsville:**

Albert Bowers, rm. 115-C

**Shut-In:**

Reba Adams, at home

Wynell Casteel, at home

Lola Colwell, at home

Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

**OUT OF TOWN: The Wulfekuhls:** Russ and Lisa are on vacation this week... **Helen Blankenship** is on vacation in the mountians this week... **The Carters:** Delmer and Margaret have been in Michigan this week visiting with family... **The Burns:** Tommy and Susan have been on vacation this weekend.

**CONGTULATIONS:** We want to congratulate **Brandon Griswold** in his upcoming graduation from Athens High School. He will graduate on Thursday night. An invitation from him to the congregation has been placed on the foyer bulletin board. We wish the very best for Brandon as he starts this new chapter in his life. May the Lord richly bless him.

**SYMPATHY:** We extend our deepest sympathy to **Bobby McGuire** and all the family in the passing of Bobby's sister-in-law, **Mary Bates**. She passed away last Wednesday. Her funeral was on Saturday afternoon at the Spry Funeral Home. She was laid to rest in the Myers Cemetery.

**WORKGROUPS:** Work Group Three will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group three, remember to meet with your group tonight.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance for the week of May 18th

**Sunday:** Bible Classes..... 116  
Morning Worship ..... 164  
Evening Worship..... 119

**Wednesday:** Bible Classes..... 104

**Remember Our Study Periods**

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, May 25th:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Marcus Morris  
Song Leader ..... Stefan Fudge  
Prayer ..... Ross Melvin  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Kenneth Smith  
Assisting ..... Marty Adams  
Serving ..... Landon Adams ..... Delmer Carter  
..... Heath Dollar ..... James Johnson  
Closing Prayer ..... Ronnie Locke

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Marcus Morris  
Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm  
Prayer ..... Keith Hinkle  
Preaching ..... Song Service  
Lord's Supper ..... Kenneth Smith  
Closing Prayer ..... Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 25th:

Usher ..... Keenon Currier  
Work Sound System ..... Terry Andrews

**Wednesday, May 28th:**

Song Leader ..... Marty Adams  
Bible Reading..... Mark 14:43-50  
..... Dan Reed  
Prayer ..... Dwaine Allfrey  
Invitation ..... David Cox  
Closing Prayer ..... Larry Mitchell

**Sunday, June 1st:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Keith Hinkle  
Song Leader ..... Hunter Cox  
Prayer ..... Tyler Cox  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Joel Hamm  
Assisting ..... Larry Mitchell  
Serving ..... Steve Usery ..... Bill Claxton  
..... Delmer Carter ..... Landon Adams  
Closing Prayer ..... Jerry McGlocklin

*Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Keith Hinkle  
Song Leader ..... Stefan Fudge  
Prayer ..... Kenneth Smith  
Preaching ..... Jordan Lovell  
Lord's Supper ..... Joel Hamm  
Closing Prayer ..... Norman Brown

Other Assignments for Sunday, June 1st:

Usher ..... Ronnie Locke  
Work Sound System ..... Marty Adams